

Wildlife protection laws protect native nesting species, and in some cases harassment or destruction of nests during breeding has resulted in fines. Permits can and have been issued for some sort of "control" for gull colonies (e.g., MarketPlace Mall in Rochester, New York). The building where the Des Plaines gulls nested last year is now partially occupied by a business. But as of late January 2002, a part of the building was still for lease, and other nearby business buildings with flat-topped roofs are also currently "for lease," so the gulls may still be able to nest in this area, either on the same building as last summer or close by.

On a 27 January 2002 visit to the area (not nesting season to be sure), a half dozen gulls were flying over or near that building. Numbers of gulls in the area increased on each subsequent visit in February, March, and April, with gulls noted on the edges of additional buildings besides those on which they nested the summer of 2001. We will watch for more evidence of nesting in the area the summer of 2002.

Now that we have evidence of at least one Illinois roof-top nesting colony, birders should be aware of the possibility that there might be additional similar colonies in the state. They might occur in other urban or suburban industrial parks, where there are large numbers of adjacent flat-topped roofs. Gulls might also be nesting on rooftops in other areas such as elsewhere

around Chicago and its suburbs, or perhaps in East St. Louis, Springfield, Peoria, Rockford, Joliet or other large cities, even in residential or downtown areas.

Greg Hanisek of Connecticut said, "picking out nest sites on rooftops requires a special effort in finding them," and few birders or researchers have had much of a concerted effort to locate them so far. The Des Plaines colony became apparent due to a complaint to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The Admail building nest colony site in Stratford became apparent to "birders because it is adjacent to a marsh area frequently visited by birders," said Haniske. "I'm sure there are other locations that haven't been discovered yet."

Literature Cited

- Blokpoel, H. and B. Smith. 1988. First records of roof nesting by Ring-billed Gulls and Herring Gulls in Ontario. *Ontario Birds* 6:1.
- Foss., Carol R. 1994. Atlas of breeding birds of New Hampshire. Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Concord. 414 pp.
- Kleen, V.J. 2000. The 1999 Breeding Season Report. *Meadowlark* 9:32.

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Illinois Ornithological Society Research Grant Announced

The Illinois Ornithological Society is very pleased to announce the new Illinois Ornithological Society Research Grant. Awards of up to \$500 are available to applicants conducting studies geared toward increasing scientific knowledge of Illinois birds. Projects for consideration may include either resident or migratory species found within the state.

The award is open to anyone with a bird-related research proposal including students, professionals, and individuals. If the grant would adequately enhance work still needed to be conducted, the project may already be underway. Interested applicants should submit a project proposal of up to but not exceeding three pages. Applicants should include the following information.

The proposal must include: name, address, telephone, email address (if any) of applicant, topic, problem being researched, expected results and significance, project location, beginning and ending dates,

estimated total cost of project, funds from other sources, how grant is to be used to either fully or partially fund the research project, experience of applicant with ornithological research.

Recipients of the IOS Grant award must agree to write an article about the research and results for the IOS journal, *Meadowlark: A Journal of Illinois Birds*. Willingness of applicant to attend IOS annual meeting and share results will be taken into consideration in choosing award winner. Assistance for travel to annual meeting may be requested from IOS.

Applications, including three copies, should be sent to Mary Hennen, Bird Division, Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605 by 1 February 2003. Announcement of the award will be at the IOS annual meeting during April/May. An application form has been inserted into this journal. Contact Mary Hennen for additional forms. Or check our Web site: www.illinoisbirds.org